Boosting of Electronics exports

236. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to boost Electronics exports specially to the United States; and

(b) what difficulties are being faced by our Electronics Industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) For boosting electronics exports, a number of incentives have been extended to the industry, which include 5 year holiday to 100 per cent Export Oriented Units (EOU) and Units in the Export Processing Zones (EPZ), extension of cash compensatory support (CCS) to units in the EOU and EPZ, announcement of all industry duty drawback rates on a number of additional items, and revision of the drawback rates on existing products, enhancement of the rate of import replenishment (REP) licences. Potential exporters as well as thrust products have also been identified with a view to make concentrated effort to boost exports.

2. For promoting software exports to the United States (US), six conferences were organised in US during October-November, 1987. Two conferences are planned to be held during November, 1988. India would also be participating in the COMDEX-88 (Fall) exhibition in the US.

In the US Market for several product areas it is necessary to obtain specific quality and safety approvals before marketing of the goods. Also the US customers generally prefer to buy goods off-the-shelf. Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation has launched a new project called ESSO (Electronics Sales Support Organisation) for providing warehousing facility and 'Catalogue Sales' in the US market.

Abolition of posts of Farakka Barrage Project

237. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to abolish a number of posts on the Farakka Barrage Project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Project authorities have opposed the Government proposal;

(c) if so, what factors have necessitated the Government to take this decision which is likely to hamper/hit the maintenance work of the project; and

(d) whether Government have devised plans to ensure smooth functioning and maintenance of the Project; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) 189 posts of Farakka Barrage Project have been declared surplus as a result of critical staff review of the Ministry at the time of review of plan schemes and non-plan expenditure.

Supply of More F-16 Aircraft to Pakistan by USA

238. DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the UNI report emanating from Washington relating to U.S. Government's agreement to supply more F-16 fighter aircraft to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Indian Government's reaction thereto?